Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /139 W

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R 241102Z JUN 77 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8565 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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EB/OT FOR BARRACLOUGH

PASS AGRICULTURE

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, EEC SUBJECT: MIP PANEL

REF: (A) STATE 139384 (B) GENEVA 2339

- 1. AT REQUEST OF EC, WE MET JUNE 23 WITH EC (LUYTEN) AND GATT SECRETARIAT TO DISCUSS GATT MIP PANEL.
- 2. LUYTEN SAID THAT EC PREFERRED TO CONTINUE WITH THE THREE REMAINING PANEL MEMBERS RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO RECONSTITUTE A FIVE-MEMBER PANEL BY THE ADDITION OF TWO NONGOVERNMENT EXPERTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. THE EC IS WILLING, HOWEVER, TO ACCEPT A FIVE-MEMBER PANEL IF THE U.S. INSISTS, BUT DOES NOT WANT OUTSIDE EXPERTS, EVEN THOSE WITH PRIOR GATT EXPERIENCE OR EXPERTISE. IF THE PANEL IS ENLARGED TO FIVE, THE EC WANTS THE GATT TO FOLLOW ITS TRADITIONAL PRACTICE OF NAMING THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AS PANEL MEMBERS. LUYTEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN A

CONSISTENT GATT PRACTICE BUT THAT THE RECENT EXPERIENCE OF THE DISC PANELS WITH OUTSIDE "TAX EXPERTS" HAS REINFORCED THE EC ATTITUDE AGAINST THE INCLUSION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON THE MIP PANEL.

- 3. JAGMETTI, CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL, QUERIED SEPARATELY BY THE SECRETARIAT, HAS INDICATED THAT THE REMAINING PANEL MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE EITHER AS A THREE-MEMBER PANEL OR WITH TWO ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.
- 4. COMMENT: REF B OUTLINED THE RISKS OF PROCEEDING WITH THREE OR TRYING TO REESTABLISH A FIVE-MEMBER PANEL. MOVING AHEAD WITH THREE WOULD EXPEDITE THE DECISION OF THE PANEL BUT COULD MAKE THE PANEL MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE INDIRECT PRESSURE OF THE CASE'S IMPLIATIONS FOR THE CAP. TRYING TO FIND TWO REPS IN GENEVA ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES COULD BE DIFFICULT AND COULD DELAY THE DECISION IN THE CASE, ALTHOUGH LUYTEN HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE SIMULTANEOUSLY NOTIFY GATT OF ACCEPTANCE OR NON-ACCEPTANCE OF PANEL MEMBERS SUGGESTED BY THE SECRETARIAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE PROCESS. SORENSON

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